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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, on the eve of the sixth anniversary of the 11 September attacks, when many are not strangers to anxiety and fear, draw near to us. Speak to those who recall the uncertainty of life and their hearts fail them.

Lord, some look at an empty chair or a desk and remember that all flesh is as temporary as the grass of the fields and withers like the flowers. Others find themselves thinking about brave Americans in harm's way. Today, remind us of Your sovereignty. Teach us that You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, and we need not fear. Infuse us with a faith that will not shrink, though the Earth be removed, though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea, though the waters roar and be troubled. Bless our Senators today as they labor for freedom. Use them to hasten the day when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 10, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately proceed to executive session for an hour's debate regarding three noncontroversial—we hope, at least—District Court nominations. The time is equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SPECTER or their designees, and Members can expect votes on these nominations to occur at approximately 11 a.m. this morning.

Once the nominations have been confirmed, Senator BARRASSO will be recognized to give his maiden speech, and he will be recognized for up to 30 minutes.

I say to Senator BARRASSO and others, sometimes these maiden speeches bear fruit. I remember my first speech. I was speaking on the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, and presiding, as is the Senator from Virginia today, was Senator David Pryor from Arkansas, who was chairman of the IRS Subcommittee of the Finance Committee. Also listening to this speech, fortuitously, was Senator GRASSLEY, who was a member of the Finance Committee—not a senior

member but someone who was active. When I finished my speech, talking about the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights making it a more level playing field between the taxpayer and the tax collector, Senator Pryor had written a note, given it to a page, and he said to me he liked what I was trying to do and would help me. I also got a communication from Senator GRASSLEY that he wanted to work on this.

Well, to make a long story short, Mr. President, because of their involvement, I had to do very little. That legislation passed, and it was landmark legislation. It was not because of my ability to communicate as much as who was listening. So I say to Senator BARRASSO: You never know what is going to happen with your maiden speech.

Once he has completed his speech, the Senate will proceed to the Transportation Appropriations bill. Senators MURRAY and BOND are managers, and they are prepared to finish that legislation this week. There should be votes prior to 5:30 or 6 o'clock tonight. After that, we will have no votes.

Tomorrow should be a very long, productive day because at 1 o'clock on Wednesday we can have no more votes. We can do more Senate business, but because of the Jewish holiday there will be no more votes after that time.

Mr. President, on September 17, which is a week from today, there will be no votes but there will be work. I indicated to the distinguished Republican leader and others that we are going to do what we can to see if we can get the DC-Utah congressional thing worked out, the Voter Rights Bill. What we are working on now is to get some type of consent to have a cloture vote on that sometime next week. That hasn't been resolved yet but we are working on it. I have kept Senator LIEBERMAN involved.

Next week, also, we are going to move to the authorization bill for Defense, which has to be completed. We

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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